Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 023966

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SECRETSTATE 023966

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO BITSIOS

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

- 1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY TO FOREIGN MINISGER BITSIOS.
- 2. BEGIN TEXT: I VERY MUCH REGRET THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S PRESS SPOKESMAN MADE A STATEMENT ON JANUARY 31 THAT APPEARED TO INTERPRET THE ATTITUDE OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT ON THE QUESTION OF MILITARY AID TO TURKEY. THIS WAS NOT DONE DELIBERATELY OR WITH FORETHOUGHT, AND AS YOU KNOW IT WAS CORRECTED BY THE SAME SPOKESMAN ON FEBRUARY 1. I HOPE THIS CORRECTION WILL PREVENT ANY MISINTERPRETATION OF MY ATTITUDE ON THIS MATTER.

I MUST ALSO APOLOGIZE FOR THE LEAK WHICH OCCURRED HERE REGARDING OUR FEBRUARY 10 MEETING. I AM PROFOUNDLY SORRY AND REGRET ANY EMBARRASSMENT THAT THIS MIGHT HAVE CAUSED YOU. AGAIN, IT WAS NOT INTENTIONAL BUT RATHER AN EXAMPLE OF HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO KEEP TRAVEL PLANS, OR OTHER SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 023966

CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS, SECRET IN WASHINGTON.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO SHIFT THE DETERMINATION OF CONGRESS TO CEASE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY ON FEBRUARY 5. THIS COULD, I FEAR HAVE AN UNFORTUNATE EFFECT ON THE CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS AND WILL CERTAINLY REDUCE OUR INFLUENCE WITH THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT. NEVERTHELESS, WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO HELP ACHIEVE A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. IN THIS SPIRIT I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING WITH YOU AND FOREIGN MINISTER ESENBEL IN BRUSSELS ON FEBRUARY 10. END TEXT. KISSINGER

SECRET

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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